

## REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-12, 14-21, 23-26 and 28-35 are pending. Claims 1, 12, 20 and 31 are amended herein. No new matter is added as a result of the claim amendments. Support for the claim amendments can be found at least in the discussion of Figure 3 in the instant application.

### 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

According to the instant Office Action, Claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-12, 14-21, 23-26 and 28-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mangipudi et al. ("Mangipudi;" U.S. Patent No. 6,728,748) in view of Bigus et al. ("Bigus;" U.S. Patent No. 5,745,652). The Applicant has reviewed the cited references and respectfully submits that the present invention as recited in Claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-12, 14-21, 23-26 and 28-35 is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Mangipudi and Bigus, alone or in combination.

Independent Claim 1 recites a method that includes "calculating a plurality of demand values for a plurality of components, wherein said plurality of demand values is calculated from a combination of throughput and utilization metrics, wherein said components are communicatively coupled in series, wherein processing of a request received at a first component of said plurality of components proceeds forward through said components to a last component in said series and then backward through said components to said first component, and wherein said metrics are measurable at points between said components" (emphasis added). Independent Claims 12, 20 and 31 recite similar limitations.

Applicant respectfully submits that Mangipudi does not show or suggest the limitations of independent Claims 1, 12, 20 and 31. Mangipudi only appears to show a cluster of servers. With reference to Figures 2 and 3 of Mangipudi, any request from a client is sent through a routing host 200 to one of the servers 206 in the cluster. The server 206 responds directly back to the client. Please refer to column 1, line 56, through column 2, line 5, of Mangipudi, for example. Thus, Applicant respectfully asserts that Mangipudi does not show or suggest the limitations cited above.

Applicant also respectfully submits that Bigus does not overcome the shortcomings of Mangipudi. Bigus appears to show a feedforward neural network 301. With reference to Figure 3 of Bigus, data enters on the left at inputs nodes 302-306 and flows through the neural network 301 from left to right. Please refer to column 6, lines 5-14, of Bigus, for example.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that neither Mangipudi nor Bigus nor the combination thereof shows or suggests the limitations of independent Claims 1, 12, 20 and 31. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 12, 20 and 31 are patentable over Mangipudi and Bigus, alone or in combination. Because Claims 2, 4-7, 9-11, 14-19, 21, 23-26, 28-30 and 32-35 are dependent on Claim 1, 12, 20 or 31 and contain additional limitations, Claims 2, 4-7, 9-11, 14-19, 21, 23-26, 28-30 and 32-35 are also considered patentable over Mangipudi and Bigus, alone or in combination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the basis for rejecting Claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-12, 14-21, 23-26 and 28-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed.

### Conclusions

In light of the amendments and arguments presented herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected claims.

Based on the arguments presented above, Applicant respectfully asserts that Claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-12, 14-21, 23-26 and 28-35 overcome the rejections of record. Therefore, Applicant respectfully solicits allowance of these claims.

The Applicant has reviewed the references cited but not relied upon, and did not find these references to show or suggest the present claimed invention: U.S. Patent Nos. 5,367,473, 7,054,934, 7,054,943, 6,459,682, 6,718,358, 6,591,262, 7,000,013 and 6,857,020, and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0136379.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wagner, Murabito & Hao LLP

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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